NIAGARA NEWS

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NIAGARA COLLEGE
of Applied Arts and Technology
WELLAND CAMPUS
LEARNING
RESOURCE CENTRE

Championship bound

The Niagara College men's volleyball team earned a playoff spot in just their first season. In a two-day tournament last weekend at Cambrian College, the Knights came through with some clutch victories at crucial moments in order to clinch the playoff berth. Team members include (from front, left) Anson Humphreys, David Hartmann, Chris Mudjar, Opie McPherson and Kenny "The Gardner" Geyer. (At back) Dan Williston, trainer, Paul Hill, Paul Blakely, Yves Aubin, Jeff Vyse and Ray Sarkis, coach. Absent was Carmine Colorrochio.

Photo by Randy Colon

Niagara faces $2 million deficit

Enrolment stands at all-time low

By HELEN DOAN
Staff Writer

Niagara College faces a $2 million deficit this June without additional funding from the ministry, which has accused the college of "spreading itself too thin." Programs may have to be cut and replaced with less costly ones to offset the accumulative effects of decreased enrolment and a shift in educational patterns.

Evolving a budget strategy "from the ground up," based on short and long-range goals, requires their co-operative effort, more than 300 college staff members, who filled the Hamilton Room to overflowing, were told by college officals Monday afternoon.

On Jan. 29, college officals met with ministry of college and university representatives to tell them Niagara would be facing about a $2 million deficit on June 29, William Ford, chairman of the Board of Governors, said.

SPREAD TOO THIN

"We went with hat in hand, but also to inform them of our situation," he said. The message from the ministry was the college was spreading itself too thin by endeavoring to deliver too many programs. The college was told its average class size of 19 — sixth from the bottom, with an average of 21.9 — is too low; student contact hours are the lowest, except for Northern College.

Decreased enrolment has contributed towards the college's deficit situation. Jacqueline Robarts, college president, has said there has been no increase in enrolment for the past two years. Consquently, the amount of funding the college has been receiving has been affected. During the last six years, the college has received less than the average operating grant for funded student post-secondary enrolment. This year, it was at an all-time low of .3 per cent, with 4.5 per cent being the average.

At Monday's meeting, Gary La Rose, executive director of administrative services, said there has been a major deficit — the accumulative decline figure is about 10 per cent — in post secondary activity in the past three to four years.

The decline in the number of students graduating from high school is a long-term problem the entire college system will have to deal with, Hans Van der Slagt, dean of business, said.

NO ADDED MONEY

Meanwhile, the college is faced with a $2 million deficit and no additional grant money available. Program cuts could become a reality.

"The ministry has said in cold-hearted, bureaucratic responses that we cannot afford to offer the number of programs we do," Mr. Van der Slagt said.

But to cut programs without replacing them with others would ensure a downward spiral, he said. "We have to identify the priorities of our activities and to keep the college viable." Not only does the college have to build to survive 1988/89, it must continue to survive beyond that point.

SHIFT IN TRENDS

There has been a shift in educational trends over the past five or six years, he said. Post-secondary and adult-training percentages have decreased; Futures has increased to 21 per cent from four.

"It suggests that our operations and source of funding, and kinds of dollars that come with that is changing," he said.

"Other changes, he said, include the increasing number of adults who are coming to college for part-time training or short duration programs, and the federal government's deliberate decline in the in the amount of training it buys from colleges as it turns to the private sector whose competitive bids do not include overhead.

LIGHT FEEBLE

"It's important to step back and see what's happening down the road," he said. "It would be nice to see light at the end of the tunnel, but the light is very feeble and somewhere far away."

A budget strategy, based on short and long-term goals, is being planned but it will be three years before a new budget base is arrived at.

"If we tried to solve the deficit in one year, we would undermine this college," Mr. Van der Slagt told staff.

Short-term goals include undertaking external comparisons studies, looking for ways all programs can cut back expenses, and placing activities in a list of priorities.

Decision Package/Priorizing is the term being used to describe a concept that entails "building the budget from the ground up" and "making sure each penny spent is

See deficit page 12

In campaign speeches

Common ideas bond candidates

By WENDY KUDEBA
Staff Writer

Dedication, commitment and working for the students are things that Randy Conlon, Mike Ferreri and Brooke Jacobs, Student Administrative Council presidential candidates, have in common when they voiced their ideas at speeches held in the Hamilton Room Thursday.

"SAC is all about students," Randy, a journalism student, said. He feels the students should have more input in next year's SAC and would like to use more surveys to get student feedback and plan SAC events around those ideas.

"Your needs and wants are my needs and wants," Mike said. He is a Business: sales and merchandising student. He said he ran a straight forward, honest, open and true campaign and that is the kind of president he will be.

Brooke, a radio and television student, feels he is well-informed and will be "responsible to the needs of the students." He knows that it is impossible to help every student but that if he goes into his possible presidency with that idea, he will be successful in doing as much as he can.

PUBS AN ISSUE

Student pubs were a big issue with Randy and Mike and conflicting ideas arose. Mike feels that a student-built and run on-campus pub would be a great thing asking, "How could we miss?" whereas Randy feels that with low enrolment and a budget deficit, a converted existing building would be more realistic.

The candidates would like to see satellite campuses more a part of Niagara College and don't want SAC conflicts part of their council if elected.

"I want a family atmosphere," Mike said. With a bit of hard work and more of a social life, he knows that college can be the best experience of one's life and he wants to "take that college atmosphere to new, better heights."

Randy said, "The satellite campuses have been greatly overlooked in the past. They have to be included as a part of Niagara College; they have to be reached out to."

Brooke said, "The council should be that force — a unifying force. SAC can help if the people in it are ambitious and organized."

Brooke "sincerely wants to help the school and especially the students." He feels he has the necessary experience as the president of a successful community group and that compelled him to run for SAC.

Mike asked everyone to give themselves a big hand because "you people are the honored guests; you people are the most important part of the college."

"I would do all that's possible as SAC president to deal with problems, Randy said. "I will have a lot of time to put into SAC as a first-year RTV student since I will be exempt from many courses."

The candidates ended their respective speeches by expressing their sincerity in running for the position of SAC president and tried to assure students that they would do the best possible job they could if elected.

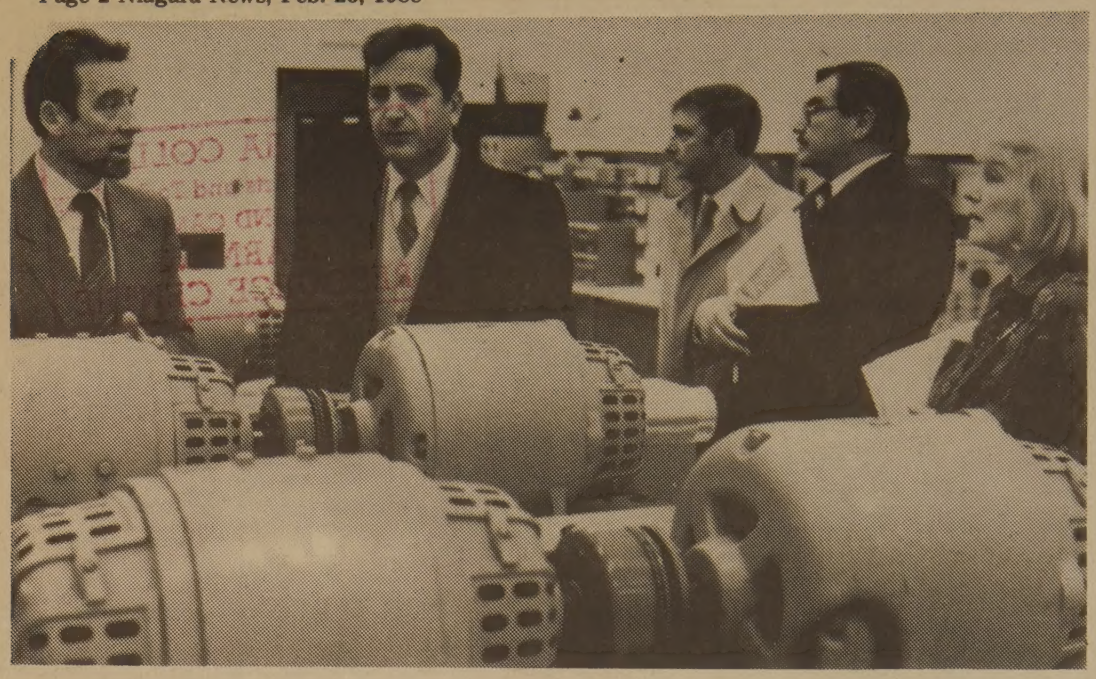
Candidates for all positions travel to the satellite campuses today to deliver their speeches. Voting takes place at all campuses on Monday, Feb. 29.

See Candidates pg. 3

Better copier

The photocopier outside the Student Administrative Council office will be replaced by a new model, SAC decided at its Monday meeting. "It will give the students a better machine," Glen Futers, vice president, said.

The new one reduces and enlarges while the old one does neither and the one by the mini caf only reduces, he said. The machine will cost SAC $2,291.82 plus provincial tax a year for the next three years with the old one as a trade-in, Glen said.



Dr. Anthony Knowles, dean of applied science and technology, talks to, left to right, Dr. Ahmed B. Al-Naeb, George Repar, director of planning and development, Dr. Saed Ali, and Sonya Lambert about the power technology lab they are in which was a part of the delegation's tour of the college.
Photo by Donald Wilsack

Iraqi delegates

Hopes for new relationships

A desire for educational exchanges and strenghthened relations was expressed by a delegation from Iraq as it visited Niagara's Welland campus on Feb. 18.

"We hope this will open the way for future co-operation and bring universities and colleges together in exhanges," Dr. Ahmed Al-Naeb, president, University of Technology in Baghdad, said.

"We need the experience from Canadian colleges and would like to strengthen and promote relations with Canada," Dr. Saed Ali, Director General of Cultural Affairs, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, said.

Dr. Al-Naeb and Dr. Ali were accompanied by Sonya Lambert, development officer with the Ontario International Corporation of the Government of Ontario, and Dr. Jawad Marzook, counsellor of cultural affairs, Embassy of Iraq, Ottawa.

PROMOTION FOR TRADE

Mrs. Lambert said the visit is part of a promotion for trade and an international outreach program based on stated interests pf countries in certain programs and facilities.

Dr. Marzook said the delegation is interested in technical colleges in Ontario and that Niagara was chosen by the Ontario government for a tour.

Dr. Al-Naeb said his country has an oil-based economy and is losing opportunities for progress because of the eight-year-old war with Iran. He said the war has affected many aspects of the economy.

"Before the war, we were on the border of becoming a developed country, and we had very good aims and ambitions to step into development."

He said Iraq needs a more flexible educational system that will respond to the needs of communities.

WORKS HARD

"Our educational system works hard to cope with progress," Dr. Al-Naeb said. "It's a big effort but progress and modernization is still going ahead."

Dr. Al-Naeb said Iraq and the federal government will be signing a cultural agreement that will cover all areas of relations between the two countries. He hopes that some visitors will come to Baghdad.

The delegation visited the new microelectronics laboratory, ambulance and emergency care program, two technology labs, dental/hygiene program and the library.

After the tour, Dr. Al-Naeb said the facilities are different from those in Iraq and that the college is well organized. He said his country needs to learn a lot from a developed country like Canada.

The delegation visited Humber College and McMaster University as part of its trip to Canada. With the tour of Niagara completed, the delegation left for a tour of Niagara Falls and Sir Adam Beck Generating Station. It is to return to Iraq on Saturday.

Plans for new Centre falling into place

Plans for the new Hospitality Centre were "very well-received" by the fire marshall Feb. 5 in Toronto, Jack Spittle, director of plant and property services, said Monday.

"The design is being refined, more and more," he said. "Details are being worked by the architect and consultants."

Architect Richard Baker of Fleming-Baker and Nelson Hofer and Associates, kitchen specialists, are working together to place specific equipment in the centre.

GRANT MONEY

Niagara College was given a $6 million grant to build a tourism/hospitality centre in Niagara Falls on its Dunn Street property. The centre will include three food labs, a bakery lab and a production kitchen. The programs that will move to the new centre are hotel and restaurant administration; two tourism programs, English and bilingual; two food preparation programs, and advanced and basic cook apprentice programs.

"Everything is falling into place, in a well-organized building — we like to think it's well-organized," Mr. Spittle said in a telephone interview.

"It's never fast enough; everyone would like it finished tomorrow, but all the t's must be crossed, all the i's dotted and the numbers added."

"In my own mind, I'm hoping for completed drawing by the end of March," Mr. Spittle said.

Friday p.m. mini pubs

Student Administrative Council has received permission to hold mini-pubs beginning today and continuing on Friday afternoons until the school year ends.

Permission was given to SAC by Hugo Bessems, student liaison officer, and Dr. Nora McCardell, executive director of educational and student services, after SAC submitted a proposal to hold the pubs, SAC president Darryl Nadeau said.

The mini-pubs, an idea to promote interaction among students around the college, will be held in part of the cafeteria due to the age restriction that applies when serving alcohol. The pubs will run from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

"It's just a time to meet more people and have a good time," Darryl said.

The college got a beer and wine licence but will serve only beer at $1.75 each.

Every three weeks there will be some kind of live entertainment to be sponsored by Molson's Breweries, Darryl said. The weeks in between will have someone playing music.

Students enter work force

Students in the dental assistant program will be heading out for a week of placement on Monday.

"They're all hyped up," Billie Atkinson, program co-ordinator, said. The students have already completed field placement once before, so they know what to expect. She has arranged placement for all 52 students.

Carol O'Keefe, of St. Catharines, will be working for a dentist in St. Catharines. She is looking forward to placement this time. She really enjoyed her last experience.

Diana Accorniti, of Welland, said, "I'm a bit nervous." But she is excited. It will probably be somewhat different from the first time, she said. Though she will be going to St. Catharinies, she eventually wants to work in Welland.

Not all the placement will be in the region. Some will be travelling further north.

Tanya Rowntree is from Elmvale, north of Barrie. She will be heading to Stayner, a small community west of Barrie. Her placement will last through the spring break. There is the possibility of her being hired when she graduates, because the dentist is looking for a new assistant. "It sounds like a good office to get into," she said. Last year they sent their staff to Mexico as a working bonus.

Many feel the course has been time-consuming and are looking forward to moving into the workforce for a while.

Leap Day Bargains

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NIAGARA COLLEGE SINCE 1967 OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY REGION OF NIAGARA

Tecumseh Centre

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The Community Living puppets help stress the importance of the integration of physically and mentally disabled individuals into the community. From back left to right is Louise van der Put, Grimsby/Lincoln Association for Community Living worker; Melody, Mark, and Richard Delan, puppeteer for Welland Community Living Association. Front left is Jennifer and Grimsby/Lincoln Association volunteer, Leah Sinke.

Photo by Barbara Horning

Real-life experiences portrayed by puppets

By BARBARA HORNING
Staff Writer

'It just happens." Down's Syndrome is just "something that happens to some people."

Ellen Jane, herself a victim, was answering a question — a question that many people would have felt should not be asked.

But Ellen Jane and her friends welcomed just such explicit questions about their mental and physical handicaps.

She is a puppet, one of four Kids on the Block puppets in a presentation in the Hamilton Room Monday to help people deal with disabilities. The others were Mark, a victim of cerebral palsy; Melody, who has a learning disability; and Jennifer, a "regular" girl with good and bad attitudes about disabled people.

The puppets represent real-life children and their experiences and sensitivities at being "labelled disabled." The presentation stresses the importance of disabled individuals' integration into the community.

Louise van der Put, a Grimsby/Lincoln Association for Community Living worker; Leah Sinke, a Grimsby/Lincoln volunteer; and Richard Delan, a puppeteer for the Welland Association for Community Living, expertly brought the puppets to life. The movement of the puppets, their sensitive voices and honest answers to personal questions let the audience believe these heart-warming characters were real children.

"The puppets are a non-threatening form of education for children because the characters are likable, imaginable and people are not afraid of them," Miss van der Put said.

People often fear the disabled, and feel awkward around them because they do not understand their hardships, frustrations, fears, dreams and goals. The disabled feel alienated.

If people attempted to know the disabled, friendships would overcome the fear.

The children faced many questions. What are some physical and mental disabilities and how do they develop? Do disabled people have a hard time finding jobs? Are they dumb? Will disabilities kill? Are they contagious? How does it feel to be alienated?

"If people would ask questions instead of ignoring disabled people, it would give us a chance to explain, and it would be okay," Melody said. "They would not have to be afraid. We are like everybody else."

"No, it will not kill me," Mark said of his cerebral palsy. "No, it's not contagious. It can only get better; it cannot get worse."

Cerebral palsy victims' mouth muscles are often affected. Words may sound garbled, and a person may drool when speaking. "No, I'm not dumb either," Mark said. "Just because I talk funny people think there is nothing going on upstairs."

Barbara Aiello, a Virginia woman, had a goal to integrate disabled children into the classroom. She created a puppet representing the "real" Mark stricken with cerebral palsy. She hoped children would ask questions about Mark and his disabilitiy; they would not be scared of him if they knew what to expect. The puppet worked. The children were not scared of Mark when he joined the class.

Barbara and a theatrical company have produced 33 puppets, all of them with a different disability. Barbara writes scripts containing the emotions,hopes and dreams of disabled individuals she has researched.

The Community Living Associations have some federal funding, but are mostly community-sponsored.

The six Community Living Organizations in the Niagara Region all have the same goal: "That all people live in a state of dignity, share in all elements of living in the community and have the opportunity to participate effectively."

WILLIAM FORD

Presidency now Ford's

William Ford is taking on yet another position of authority in the provincial educational system — president of the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario.

Mr. Ford, chairman of the Board of Governors at Niagara College, is the first person from the college to serve on ACAATO, of which he was vice-president from 1986 to 1988. The association is a provincial organization consisting of board members and college presidents who discuss concerns at Ontario's 22 community colleges.

Mr. Ford is very excited about taking over as president on April 1. "We have excellent people on ACAATO, and what we endeavor to do on a provincial-wide basis is to make the average citizen more aware of the community colleges."

He hopes to encourage changes which will make ACAATO more visible on the provincial scene and will give it more opportunity to provide "meaningful input" to the Council of Regents and the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

The association meets once a year in Toronto for a two-day educational conference; this year's meeting will be at the Royal York Hotel.

The conference provides a forum to discuss matters of common interest and concern to college governors and presidents, and make recommendations to the ministries.

SAC jumps on DL for poor organization

A motion to withhold D.L. Webster's honorarium for two weeks because Alcohol Awareness Week was "very poorly organized" was voted down by the Student Administrative Council at its Feb. 20 meeting.

"Alcohol Awareness Week was very poorly organized," Darryl Nadeau, SAC president, said. "We have nothing to show students; the posters are stil in the SAC office."

"I openly apologize; I know it won't be a success and I apologize," D.L., vice-president of internal affairs, said.

It was requested that the vote be held by secret ballot. The motion made by Darryl and seconded by Kirk MacDonald, vice-president of athletics, to withhold his honorarium ended with five opposed, three for and one abstaining.

'WHY CRITICIZE?'

Julie Boone, a school rep, felt that the discussion was becoming personal and did not agree with Darryl's motion. "Why weren't people offering to help D.L.?" she said. "Why are you sitting back criticizing when you didn't help?"

Kirk felt the week could have been better organized and in reply to Julie's comment, said,"I offered to help D.L. with this and I've done something about it."

Kirk helped to organize getting a speaker from the Niagara Regional Police to come Tuesday and speak in the Hamilton Room and show the movie, Highways of Agony. He also set up the breathalizer test which took place afterwards. Darryl helped with a milk-chugging event Tuesday in the cafeteria, and another to be held yesterday.

"Not just D.L. should be blamed if we're working as a team," Steve McCarthy, social convener, said. He felt that they should all be responsible — whether the week turns out to be sucessful or ends up being a failure.

"It has never been brought forth that honorariums be tampered with," Elaine Wilson, school rep, said. "Everybody's honorarium could have been tampered with at one point and time. Why now?"

Candidates' speeches promise dedication

Six people running for three positions on the 1988-89 Student Administrative Council executive expressed their hopes and concerns for the college in election speeches in the Hamilton Room yesterday.

In addition to the vote for president, Monday's voting will be for vice-president of SAC; vice-president of external affairs; and vice-president of athletics. Three positions — vice-president of internal affairs, vice-president of finance, and social convener — were filled by acclamation.

A. J. Junop wants to bring his experience to SAC as executive vice-president. The second-year broadcasting student said he has worked with both business and-publicity and wants to bring that experience to the position.

"I'm doing for radio what I could possibly be doing for SAC," he said. If elected, A.J., 21, hopes to encourage more communication between SAC and the student body. Even if he is not elected, he hopes to continue involvement with SAC.

Brandy Milne feels she is the best candidate to represent the students.

Brandy, 21, who is studying subjects in both second and third years of personnel management, said she is prepared to tackle all the obligations of the position of executive vice-president.

The issues she hopes to address include school spirit, communication between SAC and students and the parking issue.

"What you put into it is what you get out of it," she said of school spirit at the college. "Niagara is an institution for learning for all."

Dave Leach doesn't think leadership should be taken lightly. The first-year broadcasting student said that if he is elected vice-presi
dent of external affairs, he will try and fulfil all the obligations associated with the position.

Dave, 31, has been self-employed as a professional musician for the past 11 years and said he feels he has the "professional experience and the maturity" to handle the job. He believes dedication to SAC, the college and the students are vital aspects of the job.

If elected, Dave will do his best "to live up to the standards that are set by such a position."

Communication between SAC and students will be "paramount on the agenda" if Peter Ruggiero, 19, is elected vice-president of external affairs.

Peter, a first-year business administration student, hopes to address the "lack of unity" between SAC and the satellite campuses. "We have to reach out to the other campuses...tgo make them believe in SAC."

If elected, Peter hopes to reverse a trend of disorganization and conflict of interest, and put a "spirited SAC back on track." He also hopes to promote a unified Niagara.

"I know I have what it takes to enrich SAC in both the good times and the bad," he said.

Julie Boone, 22, a first-year computer programming student, said if she is elected vice-president of athletics, she hopes to increase excursions to sporting events outside the college. She would also like to see more involvement in intramural sports at Niagara, and said she is willing to listen to ideas from other students.

The other candidate for vice-president of athletics, Karen Kehoe, second-year broadcasting student, did not attend the speeches. Karen, 23, lives in Niagara Falls.

Felix Lostracco, 23, elected social convener by acclamation, hopes to fulfil all the obligations that go along with the job.

"Thank you," the first-year business student said. "I'm sure next year will be one of the best years you've ever had."

Two others, elected by acclamation, did not attend: Margaret Birney, 21, vice-president of internal affairs, and Chris Naughton, vice-president of finance.

Editorials

Concrete guidelines needed

Once the polls have closed and the results are in, the names of those students elected to be members of the Student Administrative Council will be known. What won't be known is why there are so many problems every year.

The candidates running for SAC are given a list of rules and regulations, but one must wonder whether or not the rules are abided by. Decisions about discrepancies have been left up in the air or as "grey areas" — subject to change as circumstances warrant. What is needed is a concrete set of rules and someone to enforce them.

One of the rules prohibits campaign promises. Why? Is it because they are often unreasonable? A better understanding of objectives and careful screening of those intending to run will prevent people from entering SAC without knowledge of their responsibilities. Before they can serve us to their full potential, they must know how.

The problems centre on organization. SAC's vice president went through the necessary administrative channels to move up the election date, but he failed to take the Niagara News into consideration. Election speeches took place yesterday, the day the Niagara News went to press. The speeches were covered, but the electorate have hardly enough time to familiarize themselves with the candidates before casting their ballot. At the same time, results of the election will not be printed until after study week due to the change of election day.

Such oversights are unnecessary. A committee and or a political adviser should be made available to oversee the proceedings. Ground rules must be set if it is to be a fair and lawful campaign. As it stands, the most colorful and most numerous posters will undoubtedly win. **Elizabeth Finley**

Give colleges their due

My hat is off to the people who attended Community Colleges throughout Canada.

The college system sometimes gets a bad rap in terms of educational content and limitations. Do people who go to college really learn enough to prepare themselves for the giant step into the frenzied pace of society?

Whether going to university or college, the answer is really up to the students. Do they want to prepare themselves and become successful. The old adage holds true. What you put into something is what you will get out of it. Regardless of what institution you are at.

The pressures of university elitism are evident by peers and guidance counsellors when speaking of post-secondary education, but what about a plug for colleges?

Being here for two years, I have been taught all the aspects of my chosen field and feel more than capable of competing with others who have chosen the same career. Colleges give you a sense of confidence of being able to do the job you were taught and do it well. The practical experience you get in most programs offered at the college level is vital in understanding what will be expected of you when you graduate. How can you beat that kind of education?

So, next time the universities are receiving more attention — for whatever reason — and are being referred to as the better educational institute, nod your head calmy and unbiasedly say "I go to college and am doing very well thank you. **Robert Strohm**

Niagara News

Austin Jelbert, Editor-in-Chief
Barbara Blue, Managing Editor
Eileen Muir, Advertising Manager
Gordon Lawson, Photography Consultant

Editor: Elizabeth Finley
Assoc. Editor: Rob Strohm

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Niagara College,
Woodlawn Road
Welland, Ont.
L3B 5S2
(416) 835-2211

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Let us be thankful for fools. Without them, how could the rest of us look good?

Happiness is...

There is nothing better on a Sunday afternoon than to enjoy some rest and relaxation. This past Sunday's cold weather did not stop this little boy from enjoying a stroll on the Niagara Parkway to join his friends, the geese from the Boulevard's bird sanctuary.
Photo by Barbara Horning

Letter

Theft appalls student

Last Thursday afternoon (Feb. 18), I was appalled at the actions of various Niagara College students. The Simcoe building's first-floor Versa vending machine was not operating properly. The students immediately took advantage of the situation.

The machine was registering money being accepted, but it was falling through the coin return. Students could get their food "free" and their money back. Some lucky students made a profit; the machine was spitting money out.

As soon as the words "free food" were shouted, people swarmed around the machine, pushing others out of the way.

One girl even took the liberty of being "in charge" of the machine. She would give students their desired item with the money they deposited, and then she pocketed the extra change.

One guy was heard saying, "Let's stock up our lockers."

Little did these people stop and think that the prices would eventually rise to help pay for such losses. By the time one of Versa's employees came to fix the machine, it was empty!

Each morning, one of Versa's employees goes out of his way to buy some of these same individuals coffee with his pocket money, and he does his best to fulfill their requests for food items. A lot of thanks he gets in return.

This was a form of vandalism. I was disappointed in the behaviour. I expected more from "adults."

Barbara Horning
Second-year journalism student

Hockey tickets available

Tickets for the April 3 hockey game in Buffalo will be available in the Student Administrative Council Office for $20. The council is buying 40 tickets for the game against the Montreal Canadiens. A bus to the game will leave the college at 6 p.m.

Given credit

The idea for the 20th anniversary reunion planned by medical/records/transcriptionist students for April 9 in St. Catharines was suggested by Eleanor Snider, biology instructor.

Centennial's co-op student

For the first time, a Welland high school student is finding out what the college fashion arts program is about as she attends Niagara as part of a co-op program with Centennial Secondary.

Fashion arts co-ordinator Carole Timm said Centennial called and asked if she would take 17-year-old Alexandrea Nicholas into the program and she agreed saying it would be a new experience for everyone involved.

"It will show the various career opportunities available to her in the fashion industry," Mrs. Timm said.

A Grade 12 student from Fonthill, Alexandrea wants to find out if she likes the fashion industry and feels as if she is getting a head start on her future.

"I think it is super; I think I will end up in this field," she said.

She sits in on classes and "participates as much as possible;" this includes work in design and pattern making.

Alexandrea, who still has one year of high school, thinks she would like to go to university. When her co-op is finished, she is to write an essay that evaluates the program, how she liked it, and whether or not she will pursue a career in fashion arts.

Focus on Contract Services

Determination gets Helmut job back

By MARGARET BARTLETT
Staff Writer

Helmut Swoboda's independent spirit and determination are giving him the courage he needs to restructure his life. "It's been rough but I'm regrouping and surviving," he said.

In 1986 he had a tragic swimming accident that left him a quadriplegic. Since then he has attended the college for retraining and returned to work at General Motors in St. Catharines.

He took a 10-week micro computer course at St. Catharines Campus that ended in December. On the last day of class, representatives from GM and his union came to see what he could do. They were under no obligation to take him back. "I was really happy and impressed when the union rep. told me they had a job for me."

"I'm really happy. GM has been really co-operative; they've put on doors, fixed up the washroom, things like that."

Helmut, 38, said he didn't want to spend the rest of his life living on disability pension. He wants to make his life as normal and comfortable as possible.

"I have two kids so disability pension is no good. I need a job,' he said. His disability pension was only $400 a month.

The thing that really makes him mad, he said, is that the day he returned to work the government cut off all his disability funds.

"I try to move a step forward, but they put you two steps back."

"My expenses are humungus," he said. "I feel like I'm getting punished for getting a job."

Repairman

Before the accident, Helmut was a foundry machine repairman with no office experience. In the hospital, they told him the only chance he had of working was to be a computer operator. During his eight-month stay in the hospital, he played with a computer, he said.

Helmut operates the computer with two pencils on velcro strips fastened around his hands.

The computer has opened a whole new world to people who previously were unemployable, Joan Warbis, of contract services, said.

Contract services gets a lot of unusual requests because of the contact with the community. "We are getting more and more requests from vocational rehabilitation counsellors," Mrs. Warbis, said.

"We designed the course for Helmut but we needed 11 more students to run the class so we advertised and ended up with 16 in the class," she said.

Helmut said, "The college was very co-operative; they really helped me. It made me very happy that they even tried."

He approached Brock University for help but they said they did not have the facilities to train him, he said.

Contract services worked with Helmut to arrange the course. Since he relies on the Para-transit system, his hours were restricted and the course was arranged around his schedule.

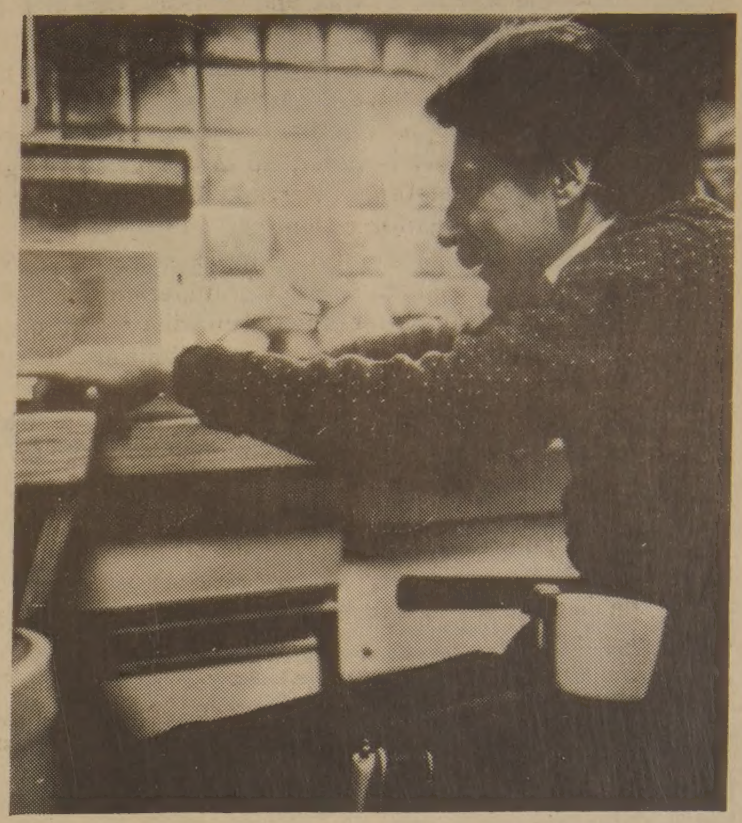
The March of Dimes have also been very helpful. Every morning a volunteer comes to help him out of bed, make his breakfast and put his coat on so he can go to work. "At night I struggle by myself. It's really hard. Everything I do is hard physical work."

"In my opinion, most handicapped people are embarrassed and very discouraged to go out and do anything," he said.

"If I wasn't a fighter, I might be like some other people, shrivelled in the corner. It's up to the individual how they handle it."

On the first day of class, he looked around and said, "What the hell am I doing here?"

The teacher was nice and always willing to help and his classmates coped very will even though he was the only disabled person in the class.



Helmut Swoboda is fighting to make his life as normal as possible even though he is a quadriplegic. He needs help with almost everything he does but he is fiercely independent. Helmut was retrained at the college and is very grateful to contract services who worked very hard to design a course with his needs in mind.
Photo by Margaret Bartlett

Different world in Niagara Glen

By DONALD WILSACK
Staff Writer

It felt like spring in January and I could not sit idle in the place surrounded by traps set for tourists. I could escape the Skylon Tower looking through my window and the houses and power lines that composed the landscape, obstructing the sun and sky from my eyes.

I pulled my bicycle from the storage area and rode to freedom along the bike path beside the Niagara Parkway to the Niagara Glen. Bless those who decided to build a road to the area and more recently, the bike path so families could travel safely to this sanctuary from the city.

At one time, an electric railway carried people to the area before the Parkway was built in 1922 which was later extended to Queenston. There is no trace of the railway that stopped operating in 1932; it is now buses, bicycles or cars.

Not long after I had left, I arrived at the place where the Falls used to be some 7,000 years ago. It is hard to fathom this passing of time and power of nature because my time is measured by clocks and calendars, and power by hierarchies and science.

When the Falls reached the foot of a low-lying island on the west side of the upper river, it was channelled but the current favored the greater left side. The right side eventually dried up as the Falls advanced to its present location about four miles away.

I secured my bicycle, wary of my fellow man at this ancient place, and walked to the first level, Wintergreen Flat, which was part of the upper river bed. At its sharp, vertical edge, there is a commanding view of most of the Glen. The cliff used to extend beyond its man-made perimeter, sheltering the path just below it. In 1959, it was scaled and blasted off for safety reasons.

I decide to descend on one of the paths made from dirt and cut rock; it is steep and unsafe for the foolhardy. The bareness of the cliff is replaced by the thousands of bare trees that canopy this particualr path.

Destruction

In 1897, paths were made along the whole length of the Glen and between 1900 and 1906, the more inaccessible parts were opened up. There were once cedar bark shelters and dining pavilions with fireplaces at various levels on the 2½ miles of paths, but the last of these were destroyed by vandals in the '70s.

I am dwarfed by the fallen boulders and cliff above. Evergreen trees and moss-covered rocks soften and warm the sleeping forest; at the peak of summer, the trees block out the sun.

The former pieces of the gorge wall lie on the forest floor like nature's statues to its great past. It is nature's realm; I must walk around or between these monuments. I must crouch and squeeze and struggle because I am the foreigner.

Millions of leaves cover the ground and I am completely alone except for the call of a bird now and then. The roar of the river gets louder as I get closer to its edge; the wind blows strong in the open spaces and cool over the torrent of water. I am unsettled but excited by my senses being used by this display.

Ontario Hydro and the Power Authority of the State of New York have the ability to control the flow of water over the Falls to meet demands for electricity. I do not venture onto the rocks today but feel stranded anyways. I am caught between what I need to survive and what I admire and respect.

It is new every time I come here but familiar because it is a land mark reminiscent of what held sway thousands of years ago. To day, I rely on the sun to tell me when I must start back before dark. I could get lost in the suburbs and cities of concrete and lights, my world; but I could not get lost in this old place.

The forest swallows me and the ground tires me as I walk north. I expect to see someone along the path, but it is January. During the summer, it is swarming with people and their portable memorials: garbage. I feel myself getting closer to "home" but it is so peaceful and void and static; I must stop and look at this dream.

The smell of the forest is unrecognizable but refreshing; but I know we try to capture such scents with Airwick solids and aerosol cans to mask the result of our social instincts. I can only make generalizations in identifying the distinct characteristics of the forest: trees, boulders, water, leaves and smells.

I am surrounded by the world that fell before ours began; we could never build or reconstruct anything like this. I am a mere ant far from the anthill and far from this.

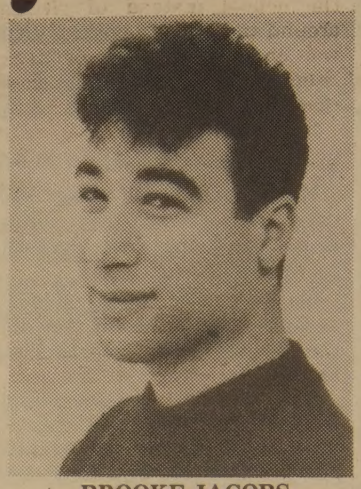
I climb the wooden stairs and look at the crumbled remains of the island; the rocks the size of houses; the densely wooded ground and the river that leads to the root of the Glen. I went back to the place to plan my next escape.

At one time, these banks by the Niagara River had no steps to aid hikers through this paradise. It was not until after 1906 that the entire Glen area was made accessible with the completion of these semi-natural paths that total 2½ miles in length.
Photo by Donald Wilsack

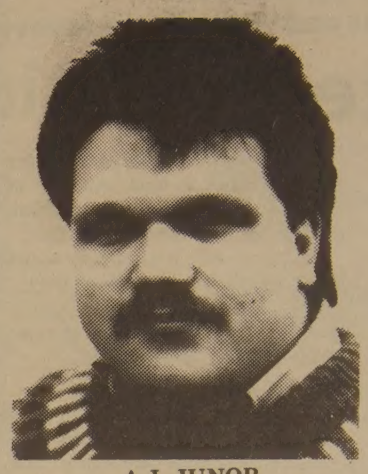
Who will be your next SAC?

RANDY CONLON

MIKE FERRERI



BROOKE JACOBS



A.J. JUNOP

BRANDY MILNE

Three vie for SAC presidency

Randy Conlon, a second-year journalism student, feels that giving students a chance is the most important thing he can do if elected student council president.

"My 'Give the students a chance' campaign means that I feel students deserve more input. I don't think it's fair that seven council members decide what is best for some 3,600 students. If I were president, the entire school would be my council," the 20-year-old St. Catharines resident said.

Randy is graduating from the journalism-print program this year and is returning for radio and television in September. He feels this works to his advantage as he knows all "the ins and outs" of the college. He has covered everything from athletics to SAC for the Niagara News.

Another advantage he feels he has is that he will have a lot of time to dedicate to the council. "With my journalism-print diploma, I find that I'll be exempt from many classes in the first year RTV course and I'll be able to donate a lot of time to the students council. I know that the job requires a lot of time."

Randy has a lot of ideas and says a lot of changes need to be made. Working with the satellite campuses is one of them. He would like to work with the Mack Centre, the Horticulture Centre, the Theatre Centre, and the Rainbow Centre. "After all, they are part of the college," he said.

"I'm sure I will do the job as president the best way I know how. I think I have many great ideas, within the realm of possibility, of course. After all, our budget is only so much."

Mike Ferreri wants to see a lot more spirit at the college. This 19-year-old first-year student in Business: sales and merchandising said, "I came from a high school with a lot of spirit and I want to see that at the college." That is why he is running for SAC president.

Mike wants the college to relay a healthy atmosphere and he wants that done by having people talk about Niagara College, have better pubs and a better public image.

"People are concerned with the atmosphere of the college; it can be the best experience of your life and that's what I want to make it."

Mike has one main idea for his campaign, he would like to see a permanent on-campus pub at the college. He thinks it would be great for the technical people to design it, the construction-engineering people to build it, the business students to run it, the hotel and restaurant people to work at it and the interior design people to design it.

"It would be something done by the college for the college," he said. "Why go somewhere else and pay a lot when we can go to our own pub and have a lot more fun too."

Mike who is from Beamsville, also wants more parking and more people to use the suggestion box. He feels whoever is elected should be approachable and have a healthy relationship with the students because "that's what we're here for."

Brooke Jacobs figures that "if you want something done right, you have to do it yourself" and that is why he is running as president of SAC.

This 21-year-old St. Catharines resident is in his second year of the radio and television program. He feels that his experience as a youth group president will help him since he knows the politics and formats an organization is run by.

"I like the school, it has some great aspects and activities," he said. "I think I'm going to do the best job that I can; I'm not here for a power trip but for the good of the school."

Brooke feels he is responsible and willing to listen to students and to not work against the other members of SAC. He has no main platforms since campaign promises are against the rules and he feels platforms and promises go "hand in hand."

"There are problems with SAC and that is pretty plain to see. I looked at SAC the way it is now and I was a little disappointed with the way it is run."

In his free time, Brooke works at HITS FM and is interested in computers and sailing; he is also a volunteer for MacLean-Hunter TV.

Two candidates for exec VP position

A.J. Junop, 21 feels there is a lack of communication between the students and SAC and he wants to do something about it by running for SAC vice-president.

This second-year broadcasting student feels he has proper training for an organization like SAC. He now has to handle dealing with the public and handling business decisions much like the ones SAC encounters through his job as the new program director of CRNC — the college radio station.

"I am always here. Sure, I'm busy with the radio but the point is that I'm always here and even if I'm not elected, I plan on making myself a representative to SAC anyway."

A.J. has been at the college for 1½ years and . nows all the people on SAC and how they work. He feels that getting rid of on-campus pubs may be one thing that will be helpful for the college. "On-campus pubs are expensive and no one gets anything that way," he explained.

A Welland resident, A.J. is originally "from the North." He would like to see more publicity for SAC next year and he thinks that making SAC sucessful is "trying to get the word across."

Communication between students and teachers must be improved and school spirit needs a boost, said vice-president candidate Brandy Milne.

"Spirit needs to be improved in all phases of activities," this 21-year-old Welland resident said.

"I'd like to get involved in school activities and I have a pretty good background to do things. I want to make SAC the best it can be."

Brandy feels she has a good background in dealing with people since she is studying subjects in both the second and third years of the personnel management program she is in.

She feels her school training has made her a "people-oriented" person and that "when I set my mind to do something, it gets done."

"I just enjoy helping people and I'm prepared and willing to work."

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Athletics: Julie calls herself a leader Karen wants more awareness

Her experience on the Student Administrative Council as a school rep has convinced Julie Boone that she wants to be a part of SAC next year as vice-president of athletics.

Julie, 22, a first-year computer programming student, "enjoys being involved with people. I'd like to do what the students want."

She feels she knows how things involving SAC are run because of her experience dealing with them this year. She'd like to plan a lot more trips to hockey and baseball games and would like to see a varsity soccer team at the college.

Julie attended a leadership conference with the other SAC members a few weeks ago; she feels she's learned a lot from the experience, and she can use it if she is elected.

JULIE BOONE

"I enjoy sports," she said. Julie is a member of the varsity badminton team and is vice-president of the soccer club. She calls herself a leader and organizer in group activities.

Karen Kehoe wants to see "students become more aware of clubs and varsity sports" within the college.

Karen is a second-year broadcasting student majoring in TV. Her experience includes playing soccer for eight years, and she also enjoys racquetball and hockey. She has decided to run for vice-president of athletics because she feels it would be "an interesting experience."

Although she likes all sports, she is not a member of any sports team at the college.

The 23-year-old Niagara Falls resident worked at an Italian restaurant in the Falls for a few years before college and "tried to figure out what I want I wanted to do with my life."

KAREN KEHOE

She is never run for anything before, but has decided that now she is in college, she'd "like to give it a try."

External affairs VP contested by two

Dave Leach, 31, running for vice-president of external affairs has been out in the working world for 11 years as a professional musician.

A first-year broadcasting student, he feels that his "maturity" will be of great help to SAC and a "calming voice" in the office. Dave, who lives in St. Catharines, is married and has two children.

"I'd like the experience of being in a leadership position," he said, explaining why he decided to run. "I enjoy working with people."

Dave has no platforms or set ideas for next year's SAC, but feels he is "committed, competent and capable" of doing the job properly.

"I understand that everyone helps everyone do everyone else's job on SAC and that my life has been versatile enough to deal with anything that comes up."

His job before he returned to school involved such things as

DAVE LEACH

dealing with contracts, payrolls and public relations. All of these apply to his job, especially the public relations part, since as external representative, he will have to deal with people outside the college, Dave said.

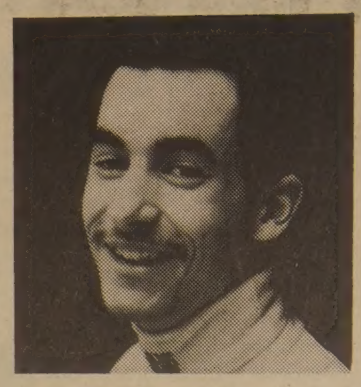
Wanting to do something for the school instead of sitting around and watching others do it was enough incentive for Peter Ruggiero, 19, to run for vice-president of external affairs.

"I was looking at a SAC sign and I wondered what was going on in the school and I want to do something about it," he said.

He wants to bring the satellite campuses in closer to what is going on at the school because, as he understands it, they feel very isolated. He feels the other campuses should be considered equal in everything the school does.

As external representative he wants the school to portray a better reputation within the community and with his business background in the first year business-human relations course, he feels he can do that.

"I want to know what people want and what their problems are



PETER RUGGIERO

and I want to work that out using SAC. I like working with SAC; I want to get more involved and I want to do well."

A resident of St. Catharines, Peter works at Jack Fraser and at King's Court Flowers in his spare time. Skiing is the only other activity he has time to enjoy right now."

Margaret new VP

MARGARET BIRNEY

Margaret Birney, 21, is the new vice-president of internal affairs — winner by acclamation. The main thing she wants to do in her position is improve the school spirit.

"It's definitely lacking; it's there but it's not," she said. "I really want to improve the school spirit."

"I really liked running for Board of Governors and I always wanted to be on SAC anyways," she said of winning.

She would like to ease differences between satellite campuses and the Welland campus. Margaret, who is from Port Colborne, would also like all students to use the suggestion box. She feels that it is always there and that students should use it a lot more.

Business student new convener

More student involvement and on-campus activities are what Felix Lostracco, social convener by acclamation, wants for Niagara College in the next school year.

"I have a lot of ideas and I want to get some good spirit going; that's what the school needs," this 23-year-old Welland resident said. Felix is in first-year business, majoring in marketing next year.

"People take the college for granted, but it's the memories from here that they'll take with them," he said.

Felix feels he has good qualifications for the job since he was social convener in high school and booked quite a few pubs at Mohawk College when he attended school there.

Felix is pleased about having the position but is "a bit disappointed" that he wasn't elected out of student reaction to him and his ideas.

In his free time, Felix works at Mother's. He enjoys all kinds of sports, also acts in Toronto and has appeared in feature films, TV commercials and TV programs. At college, he spends some of his time as a peer tutor in first-year accounting and marketing.

He feels that he will, however, always have time for SAC since his acting schedule only takes up a few days at a time. An advantage he feels he has is that he used to own his own DJ business. Booking bigger name bands will interest students more in on-campus pubs, he said. Felix would like to see intramural sports played one night a week with teams from various programs competing against one another.

One drops out

Voting on Monday

One of four candidates running for president in the Student Administrative Council elections has dropped out. Pat Ciantar, a human relations student, dropped out of the race during the first week of campaigning.

Voting begins Monday (Feb. 29) at 10 a.m. and runs until 3 p.m. at the Welland campus in the main cafeteria and in front of the library, and at all satellite campuses.

The three remaining presidential candidates are: **Randy Conlon**, journalism; **Mike Ferreri**, business: sales and merchandising; and **Brooke Jacobs**, radio and television-broadcasting.

Running for executive vice-president are: **A. J. Junop**, RTV, and **Brandy Milne**, business: personnel management.

David Leach, an RTV student, and **Peter Ruggiero**, a business student, are vying for vice-president of external affairs.

Julie Boone, a computer programming student, and **Karen Kehoe**, an RTV student, are running for vice-president of athletics.

The three remaining positions were filled by acclamation. They are: vice-president of finance, **Chris Naughton**, a computer technology student; vice-president of internal affairs, **Margaret Birney**, a business student; and social convener, **Felix Lostracco**, a marketing management student.

Election speeches were made by the candidates last Thursday in the Hamilton Room at lunch. See story on page 3.

Results will be in the next edition of the Niagara News on March 18.

SAC excursions very successful

SAC bus excursions to professional sporting events this year have been very successful.

Kirk MacDonald, who is in charge of the excursions and vice-president of athletics feels the reason is that people like going to off-campus events and because the price is fair.

"Every excursion has been sold out so far," he said. "All but one hockey game in November, and we donated the tickets to the Big Brothers, so it wasn't a loss by any means."

The success of the excursion doesn't revolve around the same group of 30 or 40 people each time. Kirk said, "Every trip so far has been a different group of people. The response has been very positive."

SAC doesn't make any money from the trips. "We have them because they get the student body involved in activities and really, that's one of our functions as a student council."

So far this year, SAC has had four bus excursions including one to see the Great One himself against the Sabres. They have also gone to see the Toronto Blue Jays play.

They go to Buffalo Sabre games rather than Toronto Maple Leaf Games because of money. "We would have to get a coach bus because Toronto is so much farther than Buffalo," he said. "And if we got coach buses, it would cost over $100 more."

In addition it is extremely hard to get group tickets for Leaf games because there are so many season ticket holders and almost every game is sold out.

SAC will have two buses going to the Toronto Blue Jays' home opener against the New York Yankees on April 11. He feels this trip should be successful because "Blue Jay excursions have always been successful in the past, and everybody likes to see the Blue Jays play the Yankees."

Everyone seems to have a great time on the excursion. "After the trip, someone will tell his friend that he had a great time; then his friend will come on the next one, and so on."

He would also like to point out that handicapped people are definitely welcome. "Just let me know in advance, so I can arrange seating," he said. Handicapped seating goes fast."

Kirk hopes to have an excursion for the Sabres' last game of the season against Montreal, and right now is in the process of arranging it.

Saddledome engineer

Bhavna Bhatia, 22, a second-year library technician student and Calgary's Olympic Saddledome have one thing in common. Her father was the chief structural engineer who helped construct it.

Bhavna said she and her family moved to Calgary from New Delhi, India in 1975. Her father completed his PhD. at the University of Calgary.

His last job there was working on the Saddledome. He did the structural analysis.

The Saddledome was specifically designed for the Olympics. The original construction started in 1980 and was completed in 1984. During the Olympics it is housing figure skating and hockey.

Her family now lives in Ottawa. Bhavna said she misses Calgary because all her friends are there. "I started crying when I saw the Olympics." If she has the opportunity for a job there, she would like to go back. "I'm very fond of the Rockies."

While in Calgary she saw the construction of Olympic Park also. She could see it from her bedroom window. "It was a ski hill before they turned it into the park." That is where they are having the bobsled events and the ski jump.

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Mudder truckers battle at Copps

By SHARON ANDRES
Staff Writer

The auditorium, filled with a 150-foot dirt track and half a dozen Fords and Chryslers, looked like a dream playground.

A playground for those who thrive on speed, danger and monstrosity.

Copps Coliseum in Hamilton was an amusement park for many Canadians and Americans Feb. 5.

An engine fired up. It startled some people but most of the crowd broke into a wild cheer.

It was the beginning of the Battle of The Monster Trucks. A battle unsurpassed in the truck circuit across North America.

This was no normal battle, however. For the first time in Monster Truck history, trucks and tanks would be battling side by side. Ford and Cheveolet, two giants in the automobile industry, were pitted against each other. The audience cheered on their favorite make.

Mountain

The object of the sled-pulling event is to hook the rear of the car up to a 50,000 pound mountain of metal and pull it as far as possible across the dirt track.

The vehicles entered in this event are restricted to carburetors and a fuel-injected system. Nitroglycerine is banned, but alcohol and methanol are permitted.

If the trucks believe they can take more weight, they can increase the weight on the sled by 10,000 pounds each time. The more weight applied to the sled, the faster the box on the back moves towards the front. This puts undue pressure on the trucks to make a full pull, in other words, to go all the way to the finish line.

The Canadian Warrior, roared out of the pits. The 19-year-old driver of this 4X4 had won the 1987 Canadian Challenge Series. Her name is Connie Coburn from Toronto. She pulled 70,000 pounds 150 feet three inches. She had excess tire spin and the ability to add 10,000 pounds to the sled but her last pull had put her in the Number 1 position.

Champion

Connie has been driving since 1985. The truck, owned by her coach/father, was the winner of the 1986 TNT circuit. In her first year of pulling, Connie won the title of New York State Champion.

"When I used to win, the guys hated me," she said. Connie is one of a minority in that she is probably the only female puller in the circuit. "Now they are all pretty chummy." But she added, "They probably don't like me under their breath."

The first full pull of the evening was by a 1968 Chevy army jeep named Gone AWOL. This fuel-injected truck with a 501-cubic-inch displacement placed in the top 10 in both Canada and the United States in the 1987 pulling season. It pulled 70,000 pounds to the limit, and the flagman waved his flag frantically to make sure driver Gene Fanny didn't keep pulling into the back room where the rest of the trucks were kept.

Rob Pirani, of Connecticut, was the winner of this event last year. He found the body in a field 1½ years ago and built this machine himself. Wild Child, a 1953 Chevy pickup with a 472-cubic-inch engine, burned methanol and succeeded in making a full pull. It looked as if Wild Child had the ability to make another win this year.

Frank Fischer had the most exotic, expensive and largest engine. It was an Arias engine, an all-aluminum engine specifically designed for racing. It displaces an unbelievable 737 cubic inches. This engine, shouted the announcer over its intense vibration, may be the biggest engine in the history of V-8s. The cost for an engine this size exceeds $40,000 U.S.

This didn't seem to help the 1987 Ford F-250 which looked as if it had transmission problems. The steering box broke and at 137 feet, it went out of bounds and was disqualified.

The next full pull of the evening was made by, surprisingly enough, a 1988 Dodge Van with a 514-cubic-inch displacement.

Jim Bosch drove Midnight Raider, a 1974 methanol fuel-injected Chevy for a full pull for the first time in his life.

This has been the largest number of trucks making a full pull ever at this event. The most was in 1979 when 11 out of 22 trucks made it past the finish line at 60,000 pounds at a Pennsylvania competition.

Heavier

The second round of the pulling was underway. The weight on the sled was increased to 80,000 pounds and the trucks ran in the order that they made their full pulls.

Gone AWOL stole the show. He pulled an unbelievable 80,000 pounds of steel for 155 feet 9 1/5 inches. Wild Child, Charlie's Lit'l Angel, the Enterprise, The Enforcer and The Midnight Raider followed the winner in that order.

The next two events were the distance jumping and the freestyle competition. It sounds like ice skating but the monster trucks had a lot less finesse and a lot more power. The audience went wild.

Wildest

Hercules, dubbed the world's wildest monster, jumped over an assortment of cars.

This Ford truck weighs 17,000 pounds and has a top speed of 28 miles per hour. It jumped, the distance measured is from where it leaves the ground to its landing point, usually on top of the cars, 28 feet.

Bigfoot, driven by Kenny Spencer, jumped 31 feet four inches. Kenny gave up being the campaign manager of the King of the Monsters, Bigfoot, to drive it.

"It's just a job. It's hard on your body," Kenny said. "You don't know where you're at when you take that first jump, but you have to feel pretty assured that you'll land straight again."

The Virginia Beach Beast, a truck body on a tank chassis weighing 23,000 pounds, jumped an incredible 33 feet four inches.

Bearfoot, also a Chevrolet body on a tank frame, won the competition, where drivers flattened the cars any which way they wanted, backwards, forwards, and with as many jumps as they desired.

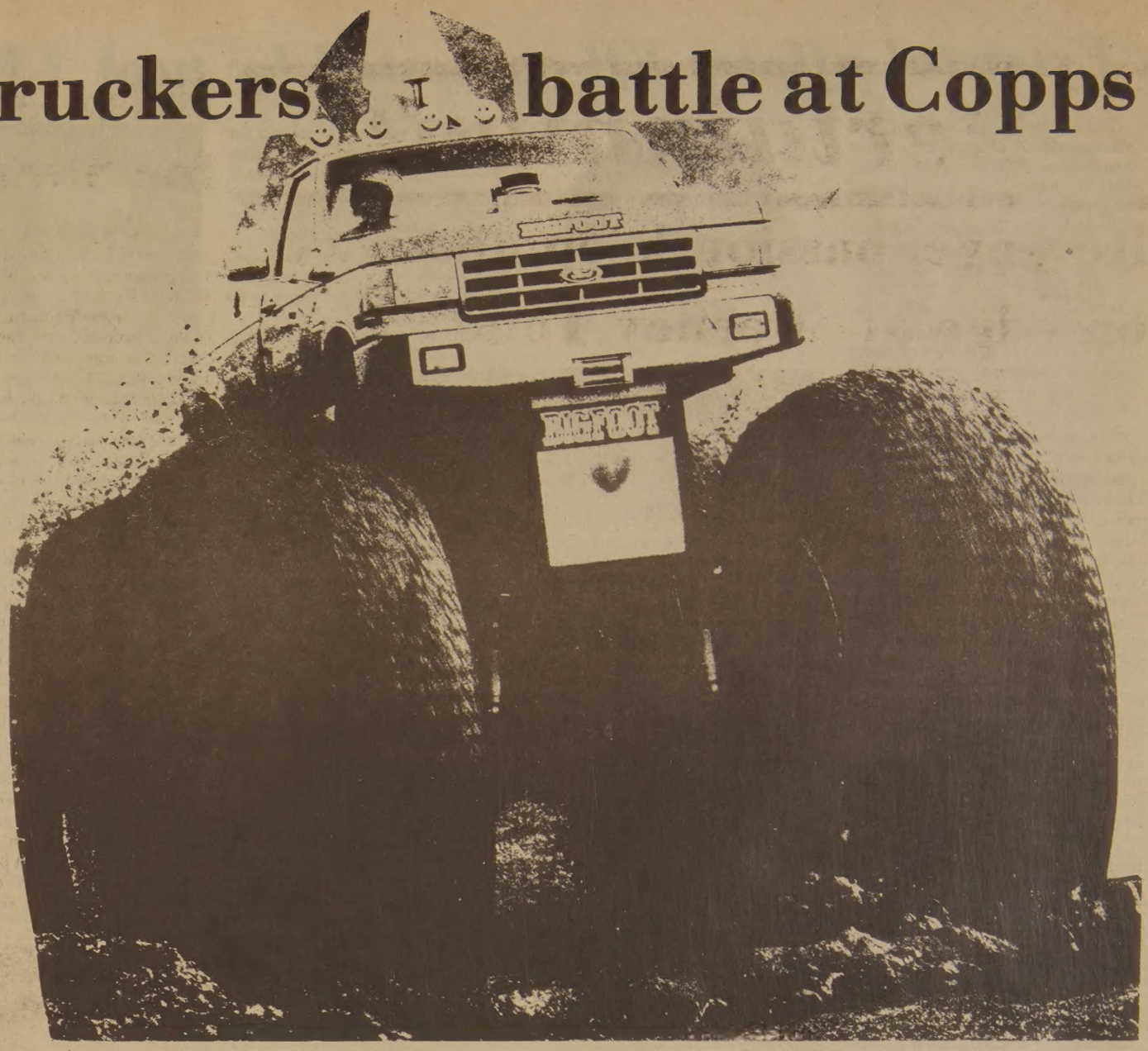
The audience was considered an applause meter as they voted for their favorite truck. In a very close vote Bigfoot was voted the winner, as so often happens.

The audience was asked to choose between the conventional trucks and the truck bodies on tank tracks. Was it to be Bigfoot or its playmate Bearfoot? The audience was divided, but it looked as if Bigfoot, which had tires reaching more than six feet in height, won once again.

The arena floor looked like a sandbox after several children and a dog had played in it all afternoon. Battered cars finally had a chance to relax their axles, their fenders and bumpers strewn throughout the track.

Mud spilled over the 150-foot dirt track, which had long deep ruts in it from trucks forcing an 80,000 pound block of steel from start to finish.

The people cleared out and the arena was silent, but only until the next night when the monster trucks and tanks would battle it out all over again.



Bigfoot is the most famous monster truck in all North American truck circuits, winning countless competitions. One of the 14,500 pound truck's biggest challenges was against Sergeant Slaughter, the World Heavy Weight World Champion, and his team called the Battle Battalion. Neither side gained an inch in the tug of war so the vote of champion was put to the audience, who, without question, applauded Bigfoot fanatically. Photo courtesy of Pulling Power

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Entertainment

Revenge, passion keep audience on edge at Sweeney Todd

By ELIZABETH FINLEY
Staff Writer

A tale of revenge entwined with passion came to life as the students at the Niagara College Theatre Centre presented the melodrama, Sweeney Todd, The Demon Barber of Fleet Street. The cast easily slipped into the roles of both the evil and noble characters that congregate on Fleet Street to complain of the smell coming from Mrs. Lovett's cellar.

The softly lit street provided an eerie feeling of expectations as the actors milled about in 1840 attire. The mood was enhanced by the appearance of fog and nostalgic music indicating that evil lurked. helped to keep the audience on the edge of their seats.

Larry Smith led the way. In the lead role of Sweeney Todd, Mr. Smith gave a spectacular performance of a man who is out to avenge the break up of his family. As the Demon Barber who takes up residence above Mrs. Lovett's lodgings, Mr. Smith eloquently does away with those unfortunate enough to sit down for a shave.

Mr. Smith's powerful performance was stirring. He had the voice and the laugh of a man with a "taste for blood" and a sinister smile that sent chills down the spines of the audience.

Equally strong were Margaret Ferencz, Joel Rinzler and Mike McCombs. Ms. Ferencz's performance as the plotting and acid tongued Mrs. Lovett was a pleasure to watch as was Mr. Rinzler's portrayal of the virtuous Anthony Hope.

Mike McCombs was a scene stealer at many times. As Tobias Raggs, Mr. McCombs easily showed what can happen to people who find themselves in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Evil and deception were accompanied by the spilling of blood of both the guilty and the innocent. All the while, a love story takes place.

Larry Smith demonstrates the "use" of a straight razor for his portrayal of Sweeney Todd. His victim, Alfredo Pirelli, is portrayed by Mark Ryder. Photo by Elizabeth Finley

Difficult blocking was handled with ease by the students who were directed by Maureen McKeon. The realistic and versatile set was appropriate to back the heinous crimes taking place, including a wonderful barber's chair and a life sized oven brought gasps from the audience.

Equally noteworthy was Allan Colette, who gave a dramatic performance as a man tortured by guilt. As the sadistic Judge Turpin, he is superb as a man falling apart and who truly walks alone.

Mark Ryder, Darren Toohey, Brian Hills, Shae Marie Casner and Connie M. Vincent gave exceptional performances, as did the entire cast.

Sweeney Todd is the story of love and revenge and the goings on in Mrs. Lovett's cellar. The Theatre Centre has done themselve proud. This is a must see.

The show continues tonight and again from March 1 to 3. Evening performances on March 1 and 2 are Niagara College night, and ticket prices are $3.50 for matinees and $4.50 and $3.50 for evening shows.

Brian gets sheared for Sweeney Todd

For his role as A Balding Gentleman in the Theatre Centre's production of Sweeney Todd, Brian Hills had to go through quite a transformation. The Theatre student had been sporting both long hair and a full beard but had to sacrifice both — all in the name of the theatre.

"I had to shave a full beard and my hair was as long as it had ever been," Brian said. "I went from being Brian to Kojak in an hour. I threw on a pair of sunglasses and no one recognized me."

Upon being cast for the part, Brian, 20, used as an example to demonstrate the use of straight razors. Actors Larry Smith (Sweeney Todd) and Mark Ryder (Alfredo Pirelli), who will each be using prop razors for the production had to be taught the technique of using a straight razor. Brian was the guinea pig.

"There's definite technique," he said.

After his shave and haircut, the production's make up crew took measurements of Brian's head in order to make the bald pate. It is made of a liquid plastic that is molded to the proper shape.

BRIAN HILLS

Before each performance, Brian spends up to two hours making up.

"It does feel weird and I have to be aware of the fact that I have no hair," Brian said of the challenge of his role.

Brian is a second-year technical student majoring in carpentry. Sweeney Todd will be his second performance for the college and although he prefers to work behind the scenes, he is looking forward to the show.

"I was really surprised when they picked me for it, but still very enthusiastic," he said. "It should be fun."

Brian Hills is helped on with his bald pate by make up crew head Lorena Ghirardo. Brian spends up to two hours in make up in preparation for the show. Photo by Elizabeth Finley

Prelim rounds

Determining which women's varsity volleyball teams would compete in the gold and bronze medal rounds of Tier II finals held at Niagara College Feb. 19 and 20 was a long, hard road.

Friday's play involved two pools of four teams each; each team played the other three teams within its own pool. From those matches, point standings were determined and the Pool A first place finisher played the Pool B second place finisher while Pool B's number one placed team played Pool A's number two placed team.

Pool A consisted of Redeemer of Hamilton, Loyalist of Belleville, Sir Sanford Fleming of Peterborough, and St. Lawrence of Kingston. Cambrian of Sudbury, George Brown of Toronto, Canadore of North Bay, and Algonquin of Ottawa made up Pool B.

Redeemer, first place from Pool A, went on to play Canadore, the second place Pool B team in the semi-final round. The two other teams battling for a place in the finals were Cambrian, first place of Pool B, and Sir Sandford Fleming, Pool A's first place team.

Once the dust had cleared,it left Redeemer playing Sir Sandford Fleming for the gold, and Cambrian playing Canadore for the bronze.

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Sports

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Inspiration leads Niagara; team playoff bound

By RANDY CONLON
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights men's volleyball team, in its first season in 10, qualified the the Tier II provincial playoffs by putting on an inspired display of talent and heart in the second day of a two-day tournament played at Cambrian College in Sudbury on the weekend.

In a weekend full of ups and downs, the Knights reached down deep when crunch time came and rallied off three straight victories they needed in order to qualify for the provincial tournament next weekend at Durham College in Oshawa.

Niagara finished the tournament with a four and three record and the season at II — 8, good enough for third place overall, behind Durham and Sir Sandford Fleming.

The key point in the tournament came Saturday as the Knights, already one and two following a poor showing Friday, fell behind a game against the host team. If Niagara lost this match, a playoff berth was unlikely.

Coach Ray Sarkis instills team unity and character.

Ray explains strategy to Yves Aubin and Anson Humphreys.

AS A TEAM

The Niagara team fell behind 13-12 but after a key block from David Hartmann, went on to win the game 15-13. In the second game of the all-important match, the Knights showed how the concept of team unity should be executed. Some perfect passing by Anson Humphreys and great sets from Yves Aubin allowed David, Chris Mudjar and Opie McPherson to power the ball past their helpless opponents. The Knights went on to win the game 15-10 and the match two games to one.

After the game David said, "I think we woke up today. We're playing together now, not like yesterday."

Coach Ray Sarkis said, "We showed character, unity and hard work. The guys really wanted it badly. We really needed this win."

The reason the Knights were in the must win situation was because of Friday's poor display.

The Knights opened the day against the Redeemer Royals, a team which the Knights have handled with relative ease in the past. Niagara struggled through the first game squeaking out an 18-16 win. In the second game Niagara looked confused, allowing the Royals to take the lead on several occasions before finally knocking them off at 15-13. Paul Blakely was the team's top hitter in this match.

LET'S FORGET

Second on the agenda in Friday's matches were the Sir Sandford Fleming Knights. This was one match Niagara would just as soon not talk about as they were mauled by their opponents 15-4 and 15-6.

"There is no team unity on the floor whatsoever," coach Sarkis said. "Everyone is playing for themselves. They're flat-footed." The coach didn't take anything away from the rival Knights saying they played an excellent match.

Niagara then had to play the Confederation 67's, a team that they had never seen before. Because Confederation is located so far away, (Thunder Bay) they only have to play in one of the three leauge tournaments, but are credited with six points for each match, a format most coaches disagree with.

Niagara looked as lost as they had in their two previous matches after winning the first game over the 67's. In the second game Niagara had game point at 14-14, but couldn't finish their opponents off and lost the game 16-14. In the third and deciding game of the match Niagara couldn't open up more than a two-point lead and ended up losing 15-12.

After defeating Cambrian in Saturday's opening match, Niagara was forced to play the St. Lawrence Vikings in another must win situation. And, yet again, Niagara came up big when they had to, playing perhaps their best match of the year.

Behind some timely hits by Paul, Chris and Opie, Niagara was able to pull away from their opponents at 10-4 in the first game to go on to win 15-9. In the second game Niagara's blocking game looked better than it has all year stopping the Vikings' best hitter, only lost a single game throughout their 18 previous matches.

In the first game of the match, everything was going great for Rob Worthy, on several occasions. The Knights won the game 15-12 and the match 2-0.

After the game Paul said, "We stunned their big hitter. Everybody was digging, Yves' setting was excellent and everybody's blocking, especially Anson's, was great."

Niagara's record was now 3-2 and they still needed one win to clinch a playoff spot. Against George Brown in the next match, Niagara kept up their inspired play and downed the Huskies in two straight games.

After clinching a playoff spot Niagara had to play the first place Durham Lords, undefeated in regular season play. Durham had only lost a single game throughout their 18 previous matches.

In the first game of the match, everything was going great for Niagara as Yves had two perfectly timed dumps to stun the onlooking Lords. Niagara went on to defeat the Lords in the first game 15-12. Durham's second loss against 36 wins.

After this emotional victory for Niagara, they seemed to have run out of gas at the same time Durham caught fire. The Lords went on a roll and easily handled the Knights in the next two games by scores of 15-3 and 15-4, winning the match 2-1.

The Knights move in to a round robin tournament against Durham, Sir Sandford Fleming and Confederation for the provincial Tier II championship. The top two teams after this tournament then advance to the overall (Tier I and II) provincial championships at Centennial the following week.

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Sports

Curling

Niagara's women's team are on their way to Ottawa for the championship curling competition in Ottawa next month. They are from left, coach Bob Young, Kendra Eckhardt, Kelly Lee, Cindy Goulden and Tracy Rienzo. Photo by Elizabeth Finley

"The guys had control of the game at many points but still lost," coach Bob Young said. "It could have gone either way very easily." The team are from left; Kirk McCreadie, Paul Gosselin, Pat Ciantar, Bill Bosnich and coach Bob Young. Photo by Elizabeth Finley

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Tier II champs

Redeemer romps to title

By WENDY KUDEBA
Staff Writer

It may not have been the Olympics, but the gold medal round that the Redeemer Royals women's volleyball team won in the Tier II finals on Feb. 20 meant just as much to them.

The Royals, from Hamilton, went through a two-day winning streak to take them to the gold medal round late on Saturday afternoon in Niagara's gym. The women must have been exhausted but if they were to win, they wanted to win big. They won two games in a row, defeating the Sir Sandford Fleming Knights from Peterborough 15-5 and 15-2.

"I feel excellent. Everything we worked on all year came together," Jane Kors, Redeemer coach said of their spectacular win.

The Redeemer coach didn't want to mention any players as doing especially well and said, "The whole team was great," but Betty Dykerman should not go unmentioned. She opened the first game with an amazing eight points. Her last two points were straight serves; not a Sandford player could touch them.

Monique Vreugdenhil was indispensible in return play as she continually came to her team's rescue and bashed the ball untouched onto the Knights' court. She proved her worth again later in the game when she added four points to her team's 9-1 lead.

VALIANT EFFORT

The Knights made a valiant attempt to save themselves when Nancy Locke gained four consecutive points but they were the last Redeemer would allow.

It took only one more exchange of service and Redeemer finished them off with a 15-5 win which put them on top of the world — ready to win game number two for the match.

The second game was a flurry of serves, spikes and quick return play on the Redeemer side. It didn't take long for the Royal's efforts to be reflected in the final 15-2 score.

"There was nothing to stop us," Ms. Kors said. "With six spiking down we just couldn't be beat. Unity was our best aspect. We always had it in personality but now we have it in play."

Redeemer player Betty Dykerman held the same attitude. "We can work as a unit a lot which helped us this year. We improved in communication and overall skill throughout the year. I feel great; it was incredible."

Shields win battle of north vs north

By WENDY KUDEBA
Staff Writer

When north met north, Cambrian College of Sudbury came out on top of the North Bay's Canadore College in the bronze medal round of competition in the Tier II finals for women's volleyball Feb. 19 and 20 at Niagara College.

It took three drawn-out games before Cambrian's Golden Shields took the match with game scores of 15-12 and 15-8. The Canadore Kittens stole the middle game with a 15-5 win.

"We're not happy with the bronze. We should have been able to play against Redeemer," Cambrian coach Lise L'Heureux said. "It (the game which decided which teams would go on to the gold competition round) was a tough game to lose."

The first game kept a regular pace with the score growing slowly on either side. Catherine Chiupka gave her Golden Shield teammates something to work with when she gained five consective points with her strong serving abilities.

JUST KEPT ON

From that 7-4 point on, Cambrian just kept gaining until they reached the 14-point mark. They almost let it slip away when Canadore gained the serve and three points for a 14-12 rest but it didn't take long for the Shields to gain their final point and the game.

Canadore roared into the second game with a determined and steady pace. They brought the score quickly to a 10-3 lead for themselves and allowed Cambrian few chances at points. The Shields were allowed only five points — all gained with a few exchanges of service — and Canadore took the game 15-5.

LOT EASIER

The final game was a lot easier on Canadore; they seemed to lose determination even though the last game had been theirs.

They seemed to put forth a good effort and the score rose steadily for both teams. Tina Marassato, Cambrian, and Karen Riddle, Canadore, each gained four points for their teams on their first serves.

It was a tense, close game with a score of 7-6 when Tina sent Canadore a battery of serves and gained her team six points. This seemed to be the turning point in the game and the Kittens gave up hope after that. They scratched out a mere two points more and Cambrian took the game 15-8 and the match.

"The game against Canadore went well. The girls thought they deserved to win but they didn't think they had to settle for the bronze," Ms. L'Heureux said. "They were really stressed for it."

Next stop: finals

Niagara's women's curling team advanced to the Ontario College Athletic Association's championship curling competition and the men's team finished third following a series of close games at the regional competition held Feb. 19, 20 and 21.

In competition against rinks from St. Clair, Fanshawe, Mohawk and Seneca, the women's team tied for first place with Fanshawe and Mohawk after round robin competition. During the tie-breaking matches, Niagara defeated Mohawk 6-5 and lost to Fanshawe 7-6.

"The ladies were outstanding," coach Bob Young said of the team that consisted of: Tracy Rienzo, skip; Kelly Lee, vice; Cindy Goulden, second; and Kendra Echardt, lead. "It was closely fought."

The men's team consisting of Paul Gosselin, skip; Pat Ciantar, vice; Kirk McCreadie, second; and Bill Bosnich, lead, failed to make it into the weekend's playoffs at the St. Catharines Golf and Country Club. They had a fine showing but came in third in overall competition.

The women's team advances to the OCCA's provincial competition to be held March 4, 5 and 6 in Ottawa.

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Sports

KNIGHTS' HOCKEY

Knights unable to tame Lions

By ROB STROHM
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights after playing to a heartstopping 5-5 draw against Penn State last Friday night suffered their first defeat in five games coming up on the short end of an 8-4 score last Saturday afternoon.

The Knights now have a record of six wins, five losses and one tie and seem to be heading for a rematch with Penn State in the semi-finals.

The two games — both played in front of large crowds — were almost completely opposite of one another in tempo and result.

Niagara in the first game seemed to be feeling the effects of a 7½ hour bus trip that was hampered by poor weather and seemed endless as the team neared their destination. The result: two periods of shabbily played hockey and a team that looked as if it was victim of fatigue and unlikely to recuperate soon.

The bright spot was goaltender Jim Darling who made a couple of key saves that kept the score at 4-1 going into the third.

BAFFLED PENN

The third period was vintage Knights as they baffled the Penn players with their speed and diligent forechecking and found themselves back in the hockey game with the score at 5-3 with less than seven minutes remaining.

Then, the line of Chris Vanermeer, Pat Flynn and Blake Sawyer combined on a three-way passing play resulting in Flynn slipping a shot past the Penn State netminder to make it 5-4.

Blake Sawyer, 30 seconds later, then rifled a shot that bulged the twine tying the game and setting the stage for the sudden-death 10-minute overtime period. This goal was Sawyer's fourth of the night and if not for Blake, the Knights may not have forced this game into overtime or even come close.

Both teams went all-out to snatch a victory but to no avail as the game remained tied at five apiece. Best chance of the period was Chris Vandermeer, as he — with seven seconds left — blasted a shot that ended up in the midriff of the Penn State netminder.

Overall, after being down three goals, the Knights could look at this game as a positive one and be proud of their comeback.

SHOWED GUTS

"The team showed guts in the comeback," Coach Fred Bassi said. "We had outstanding goaltending in key situations and that helped."

Saturday afternoon, after a good night's rest, the Knights were more than willing in their minds to take two points from their foes but on the ice was a different story.

A FORETASTE

The pace of the first 10 minutes gave a foretaste to what looked to be an exciting, end-to-end, fast-paced, offensive-minded game.

It wasn't.

The Knights, after playing a solid first period and being tied 2-2 on goals by Chris Vandermeer, one of these goals was a fluke, as the Penn State defenceman shot it into his own net and Chris as the last to touch it got credited, seemed to be right on target for getting those two points.

The Knights instead struggled throughout the rest of the entire game and if it had not been for goaltender Mark Bush, would not have kept Penn State from entering double digits.

Final score 8-4 in Penn State's favor.

"We just ran out of gas and everyone got tired," Mr. Bassi said.

Chris Vandermeer scored another goal to record a hat-trick and Jim Beattie rounded out the Knight's scoring.

The Knights will travel to Orchard Park tomorrow to take on the team that will not be in the playoffs, the Erie Community Kats.

Indoor Soccer Club kicks into action

The Niagara College Soccer Club went into action over the past two weeks with some good results and some not so good.

The newly-formed club has two men's teams that fall into the C division category when competing. It also has two mixed teams entered into this league that consists of centres from the Niagara peninsula.

The Men's Green College Tiger team on Feb. 15 started off their season on the right foot by defeating the Schnitzel Tavern of Pelham 3-1.

In their second match on Feb. 18, the Green Tigers defeated Gord's Shooters of St. Catharines 4-1.

The Red College Tigers didn't fare as well as they were defeated 3-1 by the Falls' Auto Body and by the same score against the Hideaway of St. Catharines.

In mixed action the Green College Tigers were demolished by Gilligan's of Welland 9-4.

The Blue College Tigers fared quite a bit better as they thrashed Hogans from Niagara Falls 7-1.

From Page One

Deficit

justified and worthwhile," Mr. Van der Slagt said.

Staff members are being asked to identify individual packages of activities, which will then be ranked. Those falling below a specified line will be funded; those above it will not, he said.

He described the budget process as "simple paper work to scrutinize those activities in order to make good, informed decisions in the future. It is a managerial process that will take everybody's involvement to make it work."

LONG-TERM GOALS

Long-term goals include training to press for additional grant money, as well as a change in the funding mechanism, with Niagara members of the legislature being asked for their support; capitalizing on growth areas and looking for new markets; improving the efficiency of the existing college operations; identifying high-cost activities and lowering the costs, or phasing out such activities; expanding the base of lower-cost activities wherever students and employer demands warrant it, and presenting a long-term plan to the ministry by mid-March which would permit college to implement the above steps and, at the same time minimize the impact on college staff and the community, while maximizing the long-term viability of the college.

"We need to work together to decrease the impact...on the community," Mr. Van der Slagt said. "This (deficit) is a collective problem and we need a collective effort to solve it."

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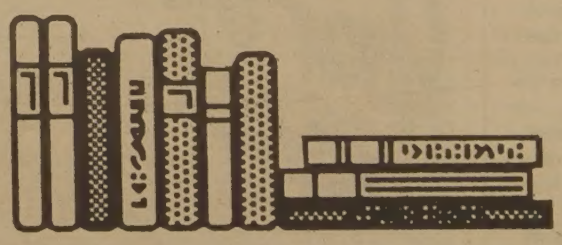

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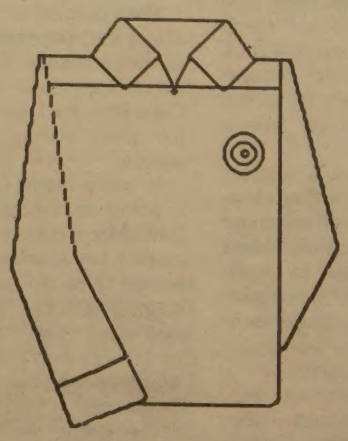

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